

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
U.S.S.N. 10/754,456
Attorney Docket No. 13139-0104 (13721.105006)

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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 16-18, and 20. This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~increasing an immune response~~ establishing immediate immunity to a target in an individual comprising, administering to the individual an effective amount of a composition comprising one or more immunity linkers, wherein the immunity linkers comprise at least one first binding site, wherein the first binding site is an aptamer nucleic acid that binds to a pre-existing immune response component, and further comprising at least one second binding site, wherein the second binding site is an aptamer nucleic acid, wherein the second binding site that binds to the target, wherein the individual has a pre-existing immune response to the first binding site, and wherein the immune response immunity is selected from a cellular immune response immunity, and a humoral immune response immunity, and an innate immune response.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-existing immune response component is induced by administering to the individual a universal immunogen ~~comprising the first binding site.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-existing immune response component is induced by administering to the individual a universal immunogen that is an immunological equivalent of the first binding site.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-existing immune response component exists in the individual without administration of a universal immunogen.

5. Canceled.

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6. Canceled.

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7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the target is a pathogen.

8. Canceled.

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9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the individual is unable to mount an effective immune response to the target prior to administration of the immunity linker.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~immune response~~ immunity is a cellular ~~immune response~~ immunity.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~immune response~~ immunity is a humoral ~~immune response~~ immunity.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a population of immunity linkers comprising first binding sites that differ in

- a. their specificity for different epitopes binding sites on the immune response component, or
- b. their affinity for the same epitopes binding sites on the immune response component.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the immune response component ~~comprise~~ comprises an antibody.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a population of immunity linkers comprising second binding sites that differ in

- a. their specificity for different epitopes binding sites on the target, or
- b. their affinity for the same epitope binding site on the target.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

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21. Canceled.
22. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunity linker molecule binds at the first binding site to an antibody previously induced in the individual and binds to the target at the second binding site thereby linking a pre-existing immunity to the target.
23. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-existing immunity results from an immunizing molecule being administered with an adjuvant and optionally with a booster.
24. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the target is selected from bacteria, fungi, viruses, toxic substances or drugs.
25. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a population of immunity linkers having more than one binding site to a single target.
26. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the binding sites have different affinities to a single target.
27. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a population of immunity linkers having multiple second binding sites against multiple targets.
28. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first and second binding sites are connected by a rigid or flexible spacer.
29. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered intramuscularly, subcutaneously, orally, intravenously, or through mucosal membranes.
30. (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the antibody is an antibody to alpha galactosyl epitopes.
31. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the aptamers contains 2'fluoro or 2' amino-2' deoxypyrimidines.
32. (New) A composition comprising one or more immunity linkers, wherein the immunity linkers comprise at least one first binding site, wherein the first binding site is an aptamer nucleic acid that binds to a pre-existing immune response component, and further

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comprising at least one second binding site, wherein the second binding site is an aptamer nucleic acid that binds to a target.

33. (New) The composition of Claim 3, wherein the first binding site binds to a pre-existing immune response component.

34. (New) The composition of Claim 33, wherein the pre-existing immune response component is an antibody to anti-alpha galactosyl epitope.

35. (New) The composition of Claim 32, wherein the immunity linkers comprise second binding sites that differ in specificity and affinity for binding sites on the target.

36. (New) The composition of Claim 32, wherein the immunity linkers comprise first binding sites that differ in specificity and affinity for binding sites on the immune response component.